

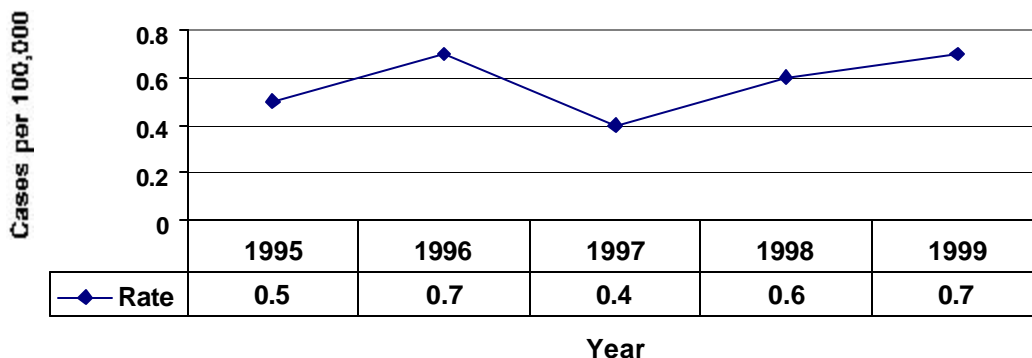
HEPATITIS C, ACUTE

Hepatitis C is a liver disease caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV), which is found in the blood of persons who have this disease. HCV is spread by contact with the blood of an infected person. Hepatitis C often produces an illness with insidious onset of symptoms, including anorexia, abdominal discomfort, nausea, vomiting, and progressing to jaundice less frequently than hepatitis B. Ninety percent of cases are asymptomatic, but chronic infection is common (50 to 80% of cases). Of these about half will develop cancer or cirrhosis of the liver. Groups at high risk of acquiring HCV are injecting drug users, recipients of blood products prior to 1992, and hemodialysis patients.

Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation:

- Serum aminotransferase levels $> 2\frac{1}{2}$ times the upper limit of normal; **and**
- IgM anti-HAV negative, **and**
- IgM anti-HBc negative (if done) or HBsAg negative, **and**
- Anti-HCV positive, with confirmation by a supplemental test (e.g., PCR or RIBA).

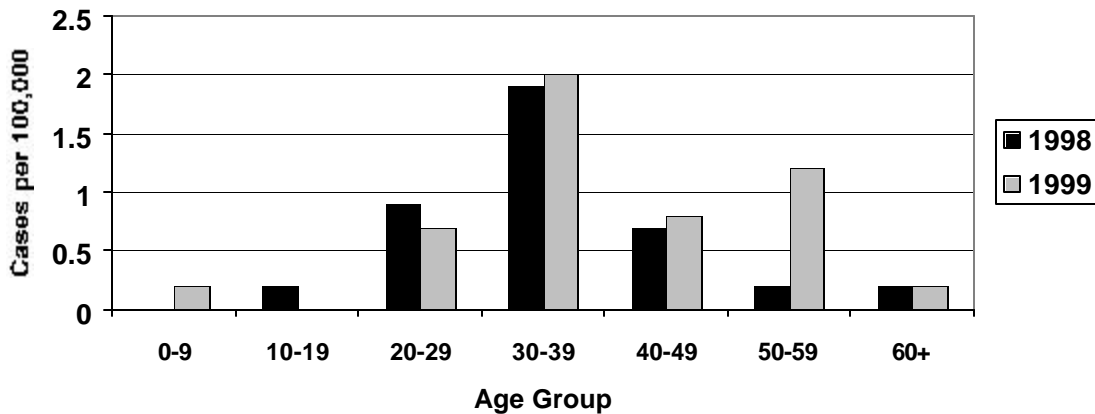
Acute Hepatitis C Incidence, Kentucky
1995-1999



	1998	1999
Number of Cases	23	28
Rate per 100,000	0.6	0.7
Rate by Gender		
Female	0.6	0.8
Male	0.6	0.7
Rate by Race		
White	0.6	0.6
Black	0.7	0.4

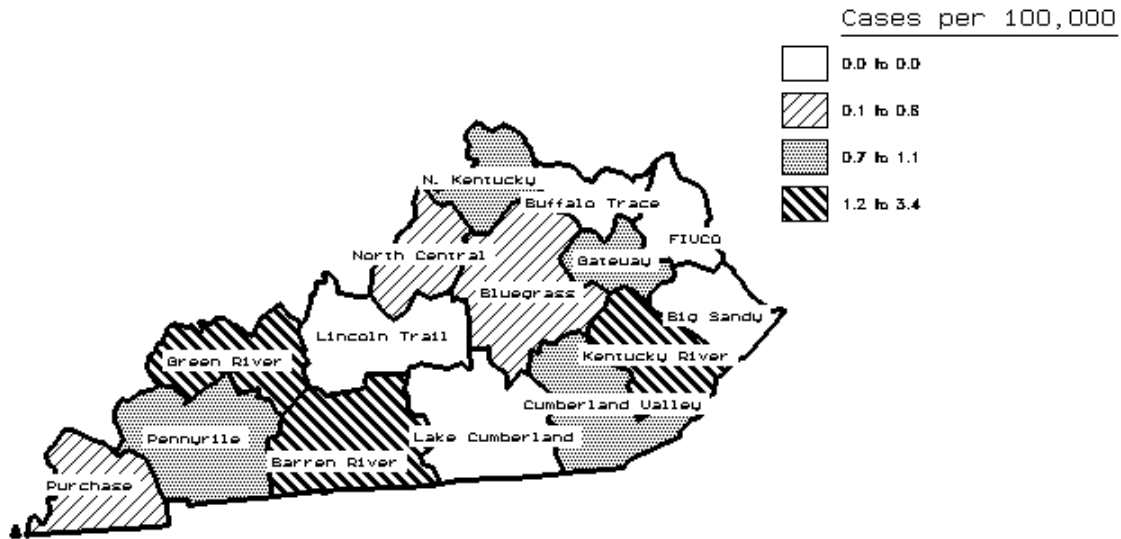
In 1998 race was unknown for 1 case and in 1999 race was unknown for 4 cases.

Acute Hepatitis C Age-Specific Incidence Kentucky, 1998-1999



The highest reported incidence in both years was in the 30-39 year age group. In 1998 the rate was 1.9 cases per 100,000 for this age group, and in 1999 it was 2.0 cases per 100,000.

Acute Hepatitis C by District, Kentucky Average Annual Incidence, 1998-1999



The Big Sandy, Buffalo Trace, Fivco, Lake Cumberland, and Lincoln Trail Districts reported no cases in 1998 and 1999. The Green River District reported the highest average annual incidence of 3.4 cases per 100,000, followed by the Kentucky River District (2.4 cases per 100,000) and the Barren River District (1.6 cases per 100,000).